

Correspondence



TIME ON OUR HANDS

SIRS:

In referring to *RAMPARTS'* January issue as "a stiff jab to the public jaw," Time was guilty of its habitual distortion. That issue was a solid right cross, and Time's refusal to recognize it as such merely expresses the envy of those smug, anemic prostitutes for journalists practicing the rugged individualism that Time preaches. Keep punching!

C. W. GRIFFIN, JR.

Denville, New Jersey

SIRS:

Congratulations! You gave Time magazine a kick in their conscience. I had never heard of you until I read Time's review [Time, January 6, 1967].

You should send reprints of Dr. Spock's article along with the pictures to Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, Robert McNamara, Dean Rusk, and all the other "stars" of our "Great Society"...

DANIEL BERNSTEIN

New York City

AN AMERICAN TRAGEDY

SIRS:

Heartiest congratulations on your splendid Double Issue.

I am enclosing tear sheets from the Congressional Record which show what use we made of the captions used by you to describe the horrible injuries inflicted upon the Vietnamese children.

ERNEST GRUENING

United States Senate

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE
January 19, 1967

SHOCKING PHOTOGRAPHS NOW
RELEASED SHOWING CIVILIAN
CASUALTIES OF U.S. BOMBINGS IN
VIETNAM

Mr. GRUENING. Mr. President, the January issue of *Ramparts* magazine carried a special supplement entitled "The Children of Vietnam" which contains some of the most shocking photographs I have ever seen. The photographs were taken by Mr. William F. Pepper, executive director of the New

Rochelle Commission on Human Rights and a teacher at Mercy College in New York. The pictures of innocent children maimed by shrapnel and burned by napalm should be seen by all those advocates of our immoral war against the Vietnamese people. How can our present course in Vietnam be right when the very nature of the war we have embarked on is resulting in the wholesale destruction of the people whom we are supposed to be saving from communism?

I wish these photographs could be reprinted in the *Record*, but perhaps the captions accompanying the pictures which Mr. Pepper wrote as a result of his visits to hospitals and orphanages in Vietnam will convey some idea of the brutality we are inflicting on a defenseless populace.

Mr. GRUENING. Mr. President, there are those who will say that we should not give publicity to these photographs of civilian injuries so as not to provide grist for the Communist mill. That is not so. The world outside the United States is well aware of these facts.

Then there will be others who will say that the pictures and text concentrate solely on civilian injuries caused by South Vietnamese and U.S. bombings without mention of the civilian injuries of similar type caused by the Vietcong.

There is a difference: The United States cannot stop the tortures inflicted on Vietnamese civilians by the Vietcong except by bringing the fighting there to a speedy conclusion. But, there is something the United States can do to stop the South Vietnamese and U.S. bombing of civilian women and children.

SIRS:

The enclosed poem was inspired by your report in the January issue on "The Children of Vietnam."

This poem may be of special interest in that it represents the response of an American child to the tragedy of childhood in Vietnam. "To a Dead Child" was written by 8-year-old Jennifer Ward.

TO A DEAD CHILD

*Doves coo,
Like pigeons do.
In your heart
You were a lark.
Love circled your head,
While dead wounds bled.*

PATRICIA WARD
Hayfork, California

SIRS:

Whilst not always agreeing with your "approaches" I generally agree with the things you publish. I wholeheartedly subscribe to your treatment of the Vietnam shock pictures in the January issue.

ALAN GREGORY

Sheffield, England

SIRS:

I was struck by a passage in the recent pronouncement on the Vietnam war by the National Council of Catholic Bishops: "And we must clearly protest whenever there is a danger that the conflict will be escalated beyond morally acceptable limits."

I wonder what morally acceptable limits of mutual killing are? Is the morality of murder a matter of quantity and degree? Is a small slaughter morally acceptable and a big one not? Are there above-and-below limits to the moral acceptability of war? Killing as such is not exactly advocated in the Ten Commandments, a document the bishops may have heard of. The particular injunction I have reference to reads, "Thou shalt not kill," not "Thou shalt not kill too much."

FELIX POLLAK

Madison, Wisconsin

X DALLAS REVISITED

SIRS:

Your article, "The Case for Three Assassins" [*RAMPARTS*, January 1967], was very well done—solidly researched and clearly presented.

Dr. Riddle is correct, of course, in observing that the bullet which hurled President Kennedy's head backward and to the left had to come from a position forward and to the right of the President, i.e., the Grassy Knoll.

However, while he is also correct in stating "the initial motion of his head is downward in frames 312-313," this is not a complete description, for in these frames the President's head has also moved forward, slightly but unmistakably.

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ably (approximately one to two inches along the line of the car).

The downward motion which Dr. Riddle observes is easily discernible by noting that the President's head appears sharply lower in 313 than in 312, in relation to the dark horizontal line in the background.

By employing this line as a reference, the following additional observations are noted: 1) his head in 314 is level with the curb line, as it is in 313, and no further forward motion is discernible; 2) at 315 the upper portion of his head again goes above the line, as it begins to move sharply to the rear; 3) the rapid leftward and rearward motion continues until his head bounces against the seat back (and again goes below the line) less than one-half second later at 321.

From the above, it can be seen that President Kennedy's head *does not* describe a continuous motion, as we would expect to be the case if it was struck by a single bullet. Instead, it describes *two separate* motions between 312-315: the first in 312-313; forward, down, and towards the right; the second in 314-315, an arc—up and over to the left rear, and against the seat back. These two distinct motions strongly suggest they resulted, not from a single shot, but from the impact of two separate bullets.

Further corroboration for such a double head-hit has been noted by observers who have studied individual color frames at the National Archives. A *large* wound appears on the right side of President Kennedy's head—extending forward of the ear—in frames immediately following the graphic impact at 313. Such a large wound is consistent with an exit wound.

If this wound on the right side of the head is indeed an exit, then it obviously could not have resulted from a shot *entering* from the right front direction of the Grassy Knoll. Since it is also obvious (as Dr. Riddle emphasizes) that the bullet which immediately thereafter knocked President Kennedy backward and to the left could come *only* from the direction of the Knoll, the double head-hit emerges as the most logical explanation for *all* the observed phenomena.

RAYMOND MARCUS
Los Angeles, California

NOTE: Mr. Marcus, a RAMPARTS research consultant on the assassination, is the author of *The Bastard Bullet*, a monograph on Bullet 399.

SIRS:

As a psychologist with some familiarity with what is or is not plausible in the realm of behavioral predictability and consistency of motivation, I would gladly believe that President Kennedy and Governor Connally were struck by a super-duper radio-controlled bullet that could have done any gyrations necessary to produce the damage and then destroy itself on command, rather than entertain for a moment the hypothesis that the behavior of the Warren Commission and its staff constituted a coherent, dispassionate search for fact. Never mind if the entire crew was miraculously struck lunatic—there still is no plausible explanation for its fantastic performance other than that it stemmed from a pre-judgment of the existence of one and only one assassin, Lee Oswald. All the rest flows naturally from that assumption—all 26 volumes of rationalization.

JOHN J. BOSLEY
San Francisco, California

HAIRY INDIGNATION

SIRS:

I was interested in Ralph Gleason's remarks on long hair (RAMPARTS, January 1967), but as a parent who has to fight the battle of the non-brow more or less daily, I can't help but feel that Gleason has missed the point.

The vast majority of American youth is not only not in rebellion, but is considerably more conservative than we elders. Most youths are, in fact, so conventional, so terrified of losing their status with the peer group, and so rigid in their evaluation of their fellows that they make the N.A.M. seem like a bunch of amiable eccentrics.

What it comes down to is that if my kids ever grow long hair and demonstrate for anything they think is important enough to fight for, I'll be so proud my proverbial buttons will burst, but so long as long hair and an expensive, wasteful wardrobe are the uniform of the American Youth—by which I mean one of the most hedonistic, sybaritic, self-centered, irresponsible, uncommitted jerks history has yet produced—I shall fight the trend with all the tired platitudes left in the arsenal of the Old Left.

WILLIAM P. NICOLET
New Bedford, Massachusetts